Claims

1. A retroreflective function member made of a flat plate-shaped transparent body, characterized in that the front surface is an incoming and outgoing surface, the rear surface is a reflective surface, and at least one surface of both side surfaces is a reflective surface, wherein the front surface projects forward to have a cylindrical shape when seen from the side and the rear surface projects backwards to have a cylindrical shape when seen from the side.
2. The retroreflective function member according to claim 1, wherein at least one surface of the rear surface and both side surfaces is provided in a bow shape or an inverse bow shape when seen from the top.
3. The retroreflective function member according to claim1 or claim 2, wherein at least one surface of both side surfaces of the retroreflective member is a reflective surface and the rear surface projects backwards in a bow shape or concaves forward in an inverse bow shape when seen from the top, the rear surface being provided with a convex aspheric surface of which the curvature radius differs when seen from the side and the top.
4. The retroreflective function member according to claim 3, wherein the center of the curvature radius of the front surface coincides with or is situated at the rear of the center of the curvature radius of the rear surface at the center line when seen from the side.
5. The retroreflective function member according to claim 3, wherein the center of the curvature radius of the rear surface is between the central axis of the incoming surface and an extension of the reflective side surface when seen from the top.
6. The retroreflective function member according to claims 1 through 5, wherein if the curvature radius of the front surface is R1 when seen from the side and the curvature radius of the rear surface is R2 when seen from the side, $1.5 \leq R2 / R1 \leq 2.5$.
7. The retroreflective function member according to claims 1 through 5, wherein the thickness of the retroreflective function member is such that an angle ($\theta 1$) between the incoming light from the horizontal direction and the line passing through the

center of the curvature radius of the front surface is within 30° when seen from the side.

8. The retroreflective function member according to claim 3, wherein an angle (θ2) between a line connecting an end of the rear surface in the width direction with the center of a curvature radius of the rear surface and an axis line passing through the center of a curvature radius of the rear surface is $0.01° \leq \theta 2 \leq 1.0°$ when seen from the top.

9. The retroreflective function member according to claims 1 through 8, wherein the width of the rear surface when seen from the top is about half the size of the front surface.

10. The retroreflective function member according to claim 9, wherein a side surface which does not contribute to retroreflection is provided with a notch for positioning or locking.

11. A retroreflective unit characterized in that a plurality of retroreflective function members according to claims 1 through 10 is vertically laminated with the front and side surfaces aligned to provide a lens unit.

12. The retroreflective unit according to claim 11, wherein the retroreflective function members are selected to have different retroreflective characteristics.

13. The retroreflective unit according to claim 11, wherein the lens unit is integrally formed.

14. The retroreflective unit according to claim 11, wherein a plurality of lens units is housed in a casing.

15. The retroreflective unit according to claim 14, wherein the angle of the front surface of adjacent lens units among the lens units relative to the incoming light is caused to differ.

16. The retroreflective unit according to claim 14, wherein a case body is provided to protect a leg section embedded in a road and lens units exposed to the earth's surface.